



From the Early Steps State Office

Fall 2010

Friends,

This quarter's message is being provided by Mrs. Paul, a wonderful advocate from the Lakeland area. I encourage you to check out the information she references and look forward to communicating with you soon!

Sincerest Regards,

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Dear parents and caregivers;

I am a parent of a beautiful 2 year old daughter who has Down syndrome. In the process of learning about early intervention, I came across the FICCIT website and applied for membership. I was appointed to the council in 2009. I am writing to encourage other parent's involvement and participation in this council that directs early intervention services for our children. The Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT) primary responsibility is to advise and assist the state lead agency in making decisions that effect Florida's system of early intervention, Early Steps.

FICCIT is composed of governor appointed members who are representatives of the state's population including parents, caregiver's, legislators and agencies that provide early intervention services. We as parents are the one's who must navigate the state's system on behalf of our children; we know what works and what does not. If your child receives services through Early Steps or has received services in the past, please apply for membership so you can express your experiences and opinions.

The council meets quarterly in various locations throughout Florida. Travel expenses and respite care reimbursement are paid through the council. To find out more about FICCIT, how you can become a member and make your voice heard, go to www.floridaicc.org/membership.htm.

Respectfully,

Sharon Paul
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Toddlers
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